

## House Resolution 156

By: Representatives Smith of the 129<sup>th</sup>, Sheldon of the 105<sup>th</sup>, Loudermilk of the 14<sup>th</sup>, Rogers of the 26<sup>th</sup>, Hamilton of the 23<sup>rd</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Edwin Howard (Buddy) Gratton, Jr., on his retirement from the Department  
2 of Transportation; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Edwin Howard (Buddy) Gratton, Jr., resides in Lawrenceville, Georgia, with  
4 his wife, Karen, and daughters, Kelsey and Samantha; and

5 WHEREAS, Buddy Gratton graduated from the University of Florida in 1982 with a  
6 Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering, and, in 1986, he earned a Master of Science  
7 degree in Civil Engineering (Structures) from the Georgia Institute of Technology; and

8 WHEREAS, he joined the Georgia Department of Transportation in 1983, serving as a  
9 Bridge Design Engineer 2, 3, and 4 before being named State Bridge Maintenance Engineer  
10 in 1993; and

11 WHEREAS, he was instrumental in conducting and managing the safety inspections and  
12 subsequent reopenings of hundreds of middle and south Georgia bridges affected by flooding  
13 associated with Tropical Storm Alberto in 1994; and

14 WHEREAS, he was named Assistant State Maintenance Engineer in 1996 and, in 1999, was  
15 appointed Executive Assistant to the Chief Engineer and then State Maintenance Engineer;  
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Buddy Gratton quickly rose through the ranks as Metro Atlanta District  
18 Engineer and Director of Preconstruction; and

19 WHEREAS, he successfully administered the letting to construction of some 90 interstate  
20 highway intersection improvement projects valued at more than \$330 million between 2000  
21 and 2004; and

22 WHEREAS, in September of 2006, in recognition of his achievement, sound judgment, and  
23 leadership, he was selected to be the Deputy Commissioner of the department; and

24 WHEREAS, during his 26 years with the department, his responsibilities have included  
25 oversight of the Division of Field Districts, the Division of Equal Employment Opportunity,  
26 the Division of Operations, which included the Offices of Maintenance, Traffic Operations,  
27 Utilities and Equipment Management, and the Office of State Aid Administration; and

28 WHEREAS, during his career, he also oversaw the Offices of Environment and Location,  
29 Right of Way, Road Design, Urban Design, Consultant Design/Program Delivery, Bridge  
30 Design and Office of Communications, Human Resources, and the Division of Information  
31 Technology; and

32 WHEREAS, Buddy Gratton is a Registered Professional Engineer and is a member of the  
33 American Society of Civil Engineers, the Georgia DOT Engineers Association, and the  
34 Georgia Partners for Transportation Quality Initiative Steering Committee; and

35 WHEREAS, Buddy Gratton has conducted himself throughout his career with the utmost  
36 professionalism and integrity, helping to guide the department through its challenges,  
37 including developing and bringing to fruition quality initiatives; and

38 WHEREAS, his career has been notable for his tireless devotion to the department and its  
39 employees as well as to the citizens of Georgia, and his leadership will be greatly missed.

40 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
41 the members of this body commend Edwin Howard (Buddy) Gratton, Jr., for his lifetime  
42 contributions to the Georgia Department of Transportation and the citizens of Georgia.

43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
44 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Edwin Howard (Buddy)  
45 Gratton, Jr.